

2.3.1.2 Alternative 4

Alternative 4 would involve widening existing US 221 and constructing a “shallow” bypass of downtown Rutherfordton. Existing US 221 would be widened to four lanes with a median from US 74 Bypass to SR 2271 (Industrial Park Road), just south of downtown Rutherfordton. A bypass on new location would be constructed from SR 2271 extending around the east side of downtown Rutherfordton and connecting back with existing US 221 near the existing US 64 interchange. US 221 would then be widened from US 64 to SR 1366 (Roper Loop Road). The total length of Alternative 4 is 9.3 miles.

Although Alternative 4 would affect less wetlands and streams than any of the other alternatives, Alternative 4 would affect substantially more homes and businesses than any of the other alternatives. Alternative 4 would also not provide as high a level of service as some of the other alternatives because the majority of the project would involve widening existing US 221 with partial control of access. For these reasons, Alternative 4 was not selected for the project (see Section 2.4.1).

2.3.1.3 Alternative 6

Alternative 6 would involve widening existing US 221 and constructing a bypass on the east side of Rutherfordton. Existing US 221 would be widened to four lanes with a median from US 74 Bypass to south of SR 2194 (Poors Ford Road). From south of SR 2194 to existing US 221 north of Rutherfordton, a bypass on new location would be built around the east side of Rutherfordton. This roadway would cross SR 2201 (Thunder Road) and US 74 Business/US 221 Alternate. At US 74 Business/US 221 Alternate, Alternative 6 continues east of the Town of Ruth, crossing US 64 and SR 1520 (Rock Road) before tying into existing US 221 north of SR 1367 (Thompson Road). US 221 would then be widened from north of SR 1367 to SR 1366 (Roper Loop Road). The total length of Alternative 6 is 9.4 miles.

Alternative 6 would affect more wetlands and streams and would cost more than any of the other alternatives. For these reasons, Alternative 6 was not selected for the project (see Section 2.4.1).

2.3.1.4 US 74A Bypass Alternative

The US 74A bypass alternative would involve widening existing US 221 to four lanes with a median from US 74 Bypass to south of SR 2194 (Poors Ford Road). From south of SR 2194, a bypass on new location would be constructed connecting existing US 221 with existing US 74 Alternate (Railroad Avenue) at US 74 Business/US 221 Alternate. Existing US 74 Alternate would be widened to multi-lanes from US 74 Business/US 221 Alternate to north of US 64. North of US 64, the bypass would be extended on new location, connecting SR 1536 (Old US 221) and existing US 221. US 221 would then be widened to SR 1366 (Roper Loop Road). The total length of this alternative is 8.7 miles.